Massachusetts: The Cost of Inaction

Massachusetts Families Suffer

Massachusetts insurance premiums skyrocket
- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost $5,794.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost $12,290.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost $26,069, a 112 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 41.3 percent of projected Massachusetts median family income.

More uninsured Massachusettsans
- ✓ Every day, 430 Massachusettsans lose their health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 498,451 Massachusettsans under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 8.9 percent of the under 65 population.

Massachusettsans pay higher premiums due to the uninsured
- ✓ Massachusetts families pay a "hidden tax" of $500 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market
- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Massachusetts have a combined market share of 67 percent.

Massachusetts Businesses Suffer

Fewer Massachusettsans have health coverage at work
- ✓ In 2002, 71.1 percent of Massachusettsans under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 68.3 percent of Massachusettsans had coverage through their employer.

Fewer Massachusetts small businesses offer health coverage
- ✓ In 2000, 58.9 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 55.5 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

Massachusetts Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs
- ✓ In 2004, Massachusetts spent $43 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents $6,683 per capita, and is 14.1 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health
- ✓ This year, the Massachusetts economy will lose $770 million - $1.85 billion, due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.